

I voted for the Motion to Refer brought by Congressman JOHN DINGELL which called for a real investigation. The Majority on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform rejected all Democratic witnesses. They would not allow Michael Mukasey, former Attorney General, and Kenneth Melson, former director of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to testify before the Committee. While Congress has the authority take this to the courts, it is premature to use this authority before a full investigation has been conducted.

Secondly, I cannot support the injudicious context in which H.R. 706 finds its way before us today. This could be a meritorious process, but it has been tainted with partisan vitriol. This takes a fundamental right of Congress and propels it into a realm of partisan action with wild charges and abuse of power. There have been charges of Presidential cover-up, despite the Chairman of the Committee admitting there is no such evidence.

Both parties should have been able to work this out before we got to this situation. This is not how Congress should have proceeded. I cannot dignify a tainted process. I have joined my colleagues in abstaining from voting, on H.R. 706 as well H.R. 711.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF HIGHLAND VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF LONNIE TATUM

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Highland Village Fire Department Chief Lonnie Tatum. Chief Tatum has spent over 42 years in public service; he began his notable career as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Nacogdoches, advancing through the ranks over the next 32 years serving as Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, Captain and Arson Investigator. In 2001, he began his ten year tenure as Fire Chief at the City of Highland Village, Texas.

Chief Tatum is a graduate of the National Fire Academy and attended St. Edwards University, Angelina College and graduated from Weatherford College with a degree in Fire Service Administration. He holds Masters Level Certifications from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

On numerous occasions, he has been recognized for his expertise in fire administration and personal dedication as a firefighter. Chief Tatum was chosen by the Angelina College Board of Regents to establish a Fire Academy and Training Facility at Angelina College in Lufkin, Texas, serving as Director for five years. He also served as Regional Faculty for the American Heart Association CPR training program at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 1992, he was recognized as "Outstanding Firefighter" of the year, and in 1994, he received the department's Medal of Valor.

Under his laudable direction, the Highland Village Fire Department has expanded from all volunteer to a professional full-time staff com-

prised of fifteen Firefighters/Paramedics and additional administrative personnel. The Highland Village Fire Department has garnered recognition reflective of Chief Tatum's capable direction; in 2006, the Highland Village Fire Department was awarded an ISO Classification of 2 and celebrated the grand opening of their new state-of-the-art Central Fire Station in May 2008.

After a decade as Highland Village Fire Chief, Chief Tatum's bravery and dedication to the safety and well being of his community will be greatly missed; his positive contributions will continue long past his retirement. It is my pleasure to recognize Highland Village Fire Chief Lonnie Tatum, and I am privileged to represent the City of Highland Village in the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMAN F. LENT

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a statesman and a friend, former Member of Congress Norman "Norm" F. Lent, who passed away on June 11th.

Norm was born March 23, 1931 in Ocean-side, NY on Long Island. He graduated from Hofstra University in 1952 and in 1957 got his law degree from Cornell University. After serving in the Navy for two years and achieving the rank of Lieutenant, Norm worked as a lawyer in private practice in Lynbrook, New York beginning in 1957, and served as an Associate Police Justice in East Rockaway in 1959–60. He then worked as the Confidential Law Secretary (law clerk) to New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas P. Farley from 1960–62.

After leaving the private sector in 1962, Lent was elected to the New York State Senate from Nassau County, and served from 1963 until 1970, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

During his long tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Norm served on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, ultimately becoming the ranking minority member of both committees often being cited as a "key player in environmental and energy legislation."

To Norm's wife Barbara and children, Barbara and Norman we extend our deepest sympathies.

Norm truly made an indelible mark on our nation and he leaves a proud and distinguished legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Norman Lents' years of service and dedication to his community, state and our Nation.

HONORING JULIA ANN SNELL

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, One hundred five years ago a virtuous woman of God was born in Buena Vista, Alabama on July 1, 1907; and

Whereas, Mrs. Julia Ann Snell was born Julia Ann Holt to Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Ilean Holt, she was educated in the local school system in Alabama, married Mr. Tim Wilson in Mobile, Alabama and was a homemaker and a store clerk at their grocery store until Mr. Wilson preceded her in death; She later married Mr. Nathaniel Snell and lived in California until Mr. Snell preceded her in death, after Mr. Snell's passing, she moved back to Mobile, Alabama and eventually to Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this Phenomenal Proverbs 31 woman has shared her time and talents as a Wife, Sister, Aunt and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Snell along with her family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, her 105th Birthday, we pause to acknowledge a woman who is a cornerstone in our community in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Snell on her birthday and to wish her well and recognize her for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby proclaim July 1, 2012 as Mrs. Julia Ann Snell Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of July, 2012.

TRIBUTE TO WHEELER COUNTY JUDGE JEANNE BURCH

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the tremendous, longtime, and diverse public service of a leader who lives and works in the heart of Oregon's Second District, Wheeler County Judge Jeanne Burch. Judge Burch has served as Wheeler County Judge since 1994 but began serving her County long before that. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed working with her and I will miss her service and so will Wheeler County.

Judge Burch lives in the town of Fossil, the county seat of Wheeler County which has a total population of around 1,400 people. Wheeler County is one of Oregon's most geographically diverse counties—it's a rugged place home to Oregon's most unique John Day Fossil Beds, two national forests, and the iconic John Day River which runs right through the middle of it. Judge Burch has seen days when her county has thrived from the economic benefits generated by the adjacent forests. And she's been there when things haven't been so good as the forest sector was forced to a halt and those jobs and benefits disappeared. Regardless, good times or bad, Judge Burch has been there to lead her county when they needed her most.